

Current Population Reports

Population Characteristics

The Black Population in the United States: March 1997 (Update)

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C E N S U S B U R E A U

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DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Detailed tabulations are now available which provide demographic characteristics on the social and economic status of the civilian noninstitutional Black population in the United States, based on the March 1997 Current Population Survey. These tables provide information such as:

- In 1997, the Black population was estimated at 34.2 million and represented 12.8 percent of the total population.
- There were 8.5 million Black families in 1997; of these, 3.7 million or 46 percent were married-couple families.
- In 1997, nearly three-fourths (74 percent) of all Black individuals 25 years old and over had at least a high school education; about 14 percent had at least a bachelor's degree.
- Black families had a real median income of \$26,520 in 1996.
- In 1996, the median earnings of Black women and men working year-round, full-time were \$21,470 and \$26,400, respectively, for a female-to-male earnings ratio of 0.81.
- In 1996, 2.1 million or 26 percent of Black families had income below the poverty level.

DETAILED TABULATIONS

The set of detailed tabulations consists of 16 tables (107 pages) from the 1997 Current Population Survey. The electronic version of these tables is available on the Internet, at the Census Bureau's World-Wide Web site (<http://www.census.gov>). Once on the site, click on "Subjects A-Z," go to "Race" then click on "Persons." *The Black Population in the United States: March 1997 (Update)* is listed under "The Current Population Survey" heading.

A paper version of these tables is available as PPL-106 for \$28.40. The previous tabulation package, entitled *The Black Population in the United States: March 1996 (Update)* is also available as PPL-70 for \$28.40. To receive a paper copy of one or both of these tabulations, send your request along with a check or money order in the amount of \$28.40

for PPL-106, \$28.40 for PPL-70, or \$56.80 for both, payable to **Commerce-Census-88-00-9010**, to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, P.O. Box 277943, Atlanta, GA, 30384-7943, or call our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422. Please be certain to specify which PPL you are requesting. A copy of these tabulations will be made available to any existing CPR P20 subscriber without charge, provided that the request is made within 3 months of the issue date of this report. Contact our Statistical Information Office on 301-457-2422.

For additional information on this topic, contact Kymberly A. DeBarros or Claudette E. Bennett, Racial Statistics Branch, on 301-457-2453, or via Internet E-mail (kymberly.a.debarros@ccmail.census.gov or claudette.e.bennett@ccmail.census.gov).

The data in the detailed tables are estimates based on a sample survey (the Current Population Survey) and are subject to sampling variability since they are not based on a complete enumeration of the population. For information on the source of the data, the accuracy of the estimates, the use of standard errors, and the computation of standard errors, contact Andrew Zbikowski, Demographic Statistical Methods Division on 301-457-4214 or via Internet E-mail (andrew.a.zbikowski@ccmail.census.gov).

NOTICE TO USERS

In order to keep you informed of the major findings from the Current Population Survey, short data updates will be made available in both printed and electronic forms for years when full reports are not produced. Additionally, the detailed tabulations that have been part of the printed reports will be updated annually in electronic form on the internet. If you wish to obtain the new tabulations for March 1997, updating *The Black Population in the United States: March 1996 (Update)* (Current Population Report, P20-498), please see the "Detailed Tabulations" section.

Our decision to modify the format of the P20 series is based on a variety of factors. Ultimately, we hope this decision will provide users with more timely data on a wider variety of topics. If you have comments about this change or the P20 series in general, please contact us on the Internet at: pop@census.gov, or write to: Chief, Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

